

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18, 20-25, and 27-28 are currently pending in this case. Claims 19 and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-18, and 20-25 have been amended by the present amendment, with Claims 20-22 and 25 amended to depend from elected Claim 23. New Claims 27-28 have been added. Support for amended Claims 1-18, and 20-25; and new Claims 27-28 can be found in the original specification, claims, and drawings.¹ No new matter has been added.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 20, 2007, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, Group IV, and list Claims 20-25 as readable thereon and submit that new Claims 27-28 also read on Group IV.

Applicants traverse the outstanding requirements since the Office has not established that a serious burden would result if all the claims were examined together. No separate search classifications have been asserted. Moreover, Applicants note that electronic searching is commonly performed so that multiple subclasses can be searched simultaneously. More particularly, M.P.E.P. § 803 states:

“If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.”

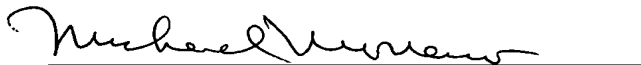
In the present application, the Office Action provides no evidence that a serious burden would be required to examine all of the claims together.

¹ See original claims 19, 23, and 24

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the requirement to elect a single disclosed species be reconsidered and withdrawn,² and that a full examination on the merits of Claims 1-18, 20-25, and 27-28 be conducted.

Respectfully submitted,

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² See M.P.E.P. § 821.01.